

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

March 1, 2018

By email: ra-dpwrtkl@pa.gov

Andrea Bankes
Department of Human Services
Agency Open Records Office
Room 234 Health and Welfare Building
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2675

Re: Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law Request

Dear Ms. Bankes:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, pursuant to 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.101 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks copies of the reports of all Contract Compliance Audits performed by the Department of Human Services, or its predecessor Department of Public Welfare, regarding the Departments’ contracts with Real Alternatives from January 1, 1997 to the date the search is conducted.

By way of background, Real Alternatives was chosen by Pennsylvania to administer the Commonwealth’s alternatives to abortion program in 1997.¹ In 2012, Real Alternatives was awarded a 5-year, \$30.2 million grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, now the Department of Human Services.² Real Alternatives used some 3 percent of the grant money it received from Pennsylvania to advance its alternatives to abortion program in other states.³ One of the other states in which Real Alternatives operates is Michigan.⁴ According to documents it provided to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Real Alternatives asserts that it received “3 Perfect Department of Public Welfare Contract Compliance Audits” and “2

¹ Molly Born and Chris Potter, *State funds designated for groups that oppose abortion*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Oct. 4, 2015, available at <http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2015/10/04/Pennsylvania-funds-designated-for-groups-that-oppose-abortion/stories/201510040104>.

² *Id.*

³ Mark Scolforo, *Agency Sues Over Audit of Grants to Counsel Pregnant Women*, *U.S. News and World Report*, Mar. 16, 2017, available at <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/pennsylvania/articles/2017-03-16/agency-sues-over-audit-of-grants-to-counsel-pregnant-women>.

⁴ <https://www.realalternatives.org/our-mission/>.

Perfect Pennsylvania Comptroller Multi-Year Contract Compliance Audits” of its Pennsylvania program.⁵ It is the reports from those audits that are the subject of this request.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.708, please state the basis of the exemption. 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.903. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record. 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.706. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state’s oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.1307(f). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Pursuant to 65 Pa. Stat. § 67.901, please provide the records within five business days. If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Human Services to process it.

If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director

⁵ Email from Michigan Division of Family and Community Health Employee Judy Stiles to Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health Executive Director, Amy Zaagman, August 30, 2013 (Attached as Exhibit 1). CfA received this document through a Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request.

Exhibit 1

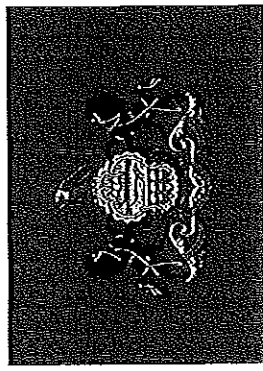
Derman, Barbara (DHHS)

From: Stiles, Judy L. (DCH)
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2013 10:06 AM
To: Zaagman, Amy
Cc: Lightning, Jeanette (DCH); Fink, Brenda (DCH); Dunbar, Paulette Dobynes (DCH); Hennesey, Diane (DCH); Gilsdorf, Michelle (DCH); Derman, Barbara (DCH)
Subject: Real Alternatives Slides - PA Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program
Attachments: Attachment1.8.13.pdf; PAPregnancyandParentingSlides8.13.pdf

Sending on behalf of Paulette Dobynes Dunbar

Judy Stiles

Division of Family and Community Health
Women and Reproductive Health Unit
109 W. Michigan Avenue/WSB
Lansing, MI 48913
517-335-8929 VM: 517-335-8499
FAX: 517-335-8822



Pennsylvania's Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program

Kevin I. Bagatta, Esq.
President & CEO



Award Winning Company and Program

- 6 Consecutive Perfect annual CPA “Yellow Book” Audits
- 10 Consecutive Perfect annual CPA “A-133” Federal Audits
- 3 Perfect Department of Public Welfare Contract Compliance Audits
- 2 Perfect Pennsylvania Comptroller Multi-Year Contract Compliance Audits